

#22/N  
11-12-02  
B. Hilliard

37 CFR 1.116 Amendment  
Please Expedite

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Michael A. Epstein  
Serial No.: 08/994,878  
Filed: 12/19/97

Atty. Docket No.: PHA 23-313  
Group Art Unit: 2131  
Examiner: Hosuk Song

Title: ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE KEYS IN A  
NETWORKED ENVIRONMENT



Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box AF  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment/Reply After Final Office Action

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply in the above-identified application in response to the final  
Office Action dated 26 September 2002.

REMARKS

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Trostle (USP 5,919,257) in view of Asay et al. (USP 5,903,882, hereinafter Asay). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, based on the Applicant's prior remarks, and based on the following.

The Examiner acknowledges that Trostle does not teach or suggest destroying a user's private key at the user's terminal, and specifically relies upon Asay for teaching a destruction of the user's private key. The Applicant specifically recites in claim 5 that *any* non-volatile record of the key is *destroyed* or *not made*. Asay specifically teaches *making*, saving, and *not destroying* at least one non-volatile record of the key, to facilitate a reconstruction of the key. In Asay, the 'clear' copy of the key is destroyed, but an 'encrypted' copy of the key is made and stored. The Applicant respectfully maintains that by common definition of the term, "*any non-volatile record*" includes an "encrypted non-volatile record".